

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An image processing method for detecting an object from an input image using a template image, including inputting a specified image with respect to both a template image and an input image, calculating an edge normal direction vector of said specified image, generating an evaluation vector from said edge normal direction vector, subjecting the evaluation vector to orthogonal transformation, a step of performing a product sum calculation of corresponding spectral data with respect to each evaluation vector that has been subjected to orthogonal transformation and has been obtained for each of said template image and said input image, and a step of subjecting it to inverse orthogonal transformation and generating a similarity value map. The formula of the similarity value, the orthogonal transformation, and the inverse orthogonal transformation each have linearity. The pattern recognition is one in which the component of the similarity value is not subjected to positive/negative reversal through variations in brightness of the background.

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